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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : American Embassy, Tripoli. 122 DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON. December 1, 1954 DATE

REF :

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.
	NEA-4	REP-2 OCR-2 OLI-6 REP-2 E-4 ARMY-4 NAVY-3
	REC'D 12/10	INFO OTHER AG-1 Com-8 FOA-10 TR-3 CIA-5 USIA-10 CSD-4

SUBJECT: Ceremony on Arrival of Partial Shipment of 24,000 Tons of Wheat from U.S. to Libya.

The first partial shipment of 24,000 tons of wheat provided as part of the economic assistance outlined in an exchange of letters with the Libyan Prime Minister September 9, 1954 was formally presented to the Government of Libya by Ambassador Tappin in a brief ceremony on board the S. S. Exceller in Tripoli Harbor at noon on November 30, 1954. The text of the Ambassador's presentation address and the text of the speech of acceptance delivered by the Libyan Prime Minister, Mustapha Ben Halim are attached as Enclosures 1 and 2 respectively.

Others attending the ceremony included the Ministers of Finance and of National Economy, the Speaker of the House, the Governor of Tripolitania, the Tripolitanian Nazirs of Finance and of Agriculture and Communications, the Mayor of Tripoli, the General Manager of the Libyan Public Development and Stabilization Agency, the Director of the Port of Tripoli, the Captain of the S.S. Exceller, the Director of USAOM/L and certain members of his staff and certain members of the Embassy staff. The ceremony was followed by a wardroom buffet luncheon at which the ship's Captain was host.

The Department will be particularly interested in the last sentence of the Prime Minister's speech in which he in effect reiterates his expectation of future generous economic assistance from the United States Government in the development of Libya's national resources and the achievement of "a reasonable standard of living" for its people.

For the Ambassador:

David G. Nes
First Secretary of Embassy

Enclosures:
1. Statement by Ambassador Tappin.
2. Translation of Prime Minister's Reply.

cc: Benghazi

TCAdams:ga
REPORTER

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/IR
REVIEWED BY J.M.Raja DATE May 6, 1982
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STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR TAPPIN ON THE
ARRIVAL OF WHEAT SHIPMENT
ON NOVEMBER 30, 1954

Your Excellency, we have come together today to celebrate an event that symbolizes the true feelings of the American people toward the young nation of Libya. When Your Excellency was in Washington last summer, you pointed to the dire need of your countrymen for food. Several years of drought, you told us, had reduced some of your people to starvation.

President Eisenhower, Secretary Dulles and Mr. Stassen listened with keen interest and the result of that interest is this meeting today. We Americans are a sympathetic people and when friends are in need we feel compelled to help if it is within our power to do so. The S.S. Exceller has brought to the shores of Libya a shipment of food grains furnished by the United States Government as tangible evidence of that help. Shipments such as this will continue throughout the coming months until a total of some 480,000 sacks of grain have been delivered. We understand that arrangements have been completed for this grain to be distributed through the USOM in Libya and the Libyan Public Development and Stabilization Agency to needy persons engaged in work projects. The American people hope that this grain will see Libya through a most difficult period.

Your Excellency, please accept this small sack of grain as a token of the true friendship and common ideals that bind the people of our two countries.

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STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF LIBYA IN REPLY TO THE STATEMENT MADE BY AMBASSADOR TAPPIN ON NOVEMBER 30, 1954.

Your Excellency, in accepting this small token sack of grain I feel, quite genuinely, that it is in fact a real token of friendship as friendship cannot be expressed in words alone. I intend to preserve this token as I, and all the Libyan people intend to preserve the friendship of the great American people.

You mentioned my talks with the President of the United States of America and with Mr. Dulles and Mr. Stassen and I have to say here and now how much I appreciated the immediate understanding of the President and of all other officials I met in the United States of Libya's problems and dire needs - particularly the need for good grain resulting from the succession of disastrous droughts over the last three years. Without question the President came to our assistance with the most generous gift of 24,000 tons of wheat, the first consignment of which has arrived today. He also assisted us most generously last season when the need was not then as great and I confidently know as all Libyans know, that the people of Libya will not be at the mercy of these periodic and disastrous droughts. Droughts are disastrous indeed but by the development of natural water resources and by other methods now known to experts the worst effects can be avoided, and we Libyans feel certain that our friends the great American people will assist us generously in our efforts to achieve a reasonable standard of living.

The arrival of this first shipment of grain is a great occasion, and I confirm that all arrangements have been made through the United States Operations Mission and the Libyan Public Development and Stabilization Agency so as to ensure that distribution will be fair and will be to the peoplein real need.

Your Excellency, please accept the grateful thanks of the Libyan people for this generous gift which expresses in material form the friendship and sympathy of the people of the United States of America.

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